

CT Chapter, The American Chestnut Foundation Minutes of the Meeting of Saturday, April 18, 2015

Present: Bill Adamsen, John Anderson, Phil Arnold, John Baker, David Bingham, Star Childs, Jim Gage, Jane Harris, Bert Malkus, Jack Ostroff, Garrett Smith, Woods Sinclair, Kendra Gurney

President John Anderson **announced** at 10 a.m. **that the Annual Meeting would follow** the presentation by Dr. David Wagner at the Middlefield headquarters of Connecticut Forest and Parks. Star Childs introduced Dr. Wagner, who spoke on “The Ecological Meltdown of American Chestnut: a Glimpse at the Little Ones that Got Left Behind and What Still Might Be.”

At 11:35, John A. **called the meeting to order** and asked for a **motion to approve the minutes** of the April 2014 meeting in New Haven. On a motion by John B. and a second by Woods, the minutes were unanimously approved.

John then introduced Star who gave a brief overview of CT Forest & Park Association, the organization which has provided a meeting place for CTACF. CFPA’s mission is trail management, education and forest conservation.

Jim presented the **Treasurer’s Report**. The chapter had net income of minus \$165 and a current asset balance of \$43,232.00. He stated that this sum and more will be needed as seed orchards begin to come on line.

John thanked the organization for allowing him to serve as president, and invited the meeting attendees to join TACF and to consider serving on the board. Anyone with suitable acreage was encouraged to speak to a board member about the possibility of a seed orchard.

He then introduced Bill Adamsen, who passed around sample laminated tree tags with QR codes that link to orchard websites. They can be used for cultivated or wild trees.

John then called upon Kendra Gurney to provide an orchard report. She introduced the orchard managers and asked for volunteers to assist in the orchards. She spoke about the highlights of the 2014-2015 year, which included a milestone event: the inoculating of the Woodbridge and Swann Farm orchards on June 12 and 13, respectively. In November, follow-up ratings were done on those trees. The only planting was of B3F3 seeds from Virginia at the Greenwich Land Trust, where they will be monitoring four methods of vegetation management. A new Youth Corps will track the data from this study.

The next big push will be locating seed orchards: host sites will require a 35-40 year commitment of the land. Currently, three sites are being reviewed, and six more will be needed. Requirements are listed on the CTACF website.

John A. asked John Baker to give the report of the Nominating Committee. Under the revised bylaws, ten directors can be elected in a given year for two-year terms. For the current year, those staying on are Jack, Jane, Woods, Star and Bill. Four new nominees are: John Blossom, Dan Donahue, Matt Freund and Christian Allyn. The nominations being closed, the slate was moved by David and seconded by Bill. The vote in favor was unanimous. John B. then announced the slate of officers: President: Star Childs; Vice-President: Jack Ostroff; Treasurer: Jim Gage; Secretary: Jane Harris. Upon a motion by David and a second by Bill, the vote was again unanimous.

Bill then presented John A. with a chestnut-framed plaque with a photo of a chestnut seedling which has been naturally regenerated in Berlin, NH.

John A then asked if there was any new business; there being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Following lunch, Star Childs called the Board Meeting to order at 12:50. Following the introduction of the officers, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last Board Meeting. On a motion by John B. and a second by Jack, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Jim then gave the Treasurer's Report, announcing a projected 2015 income of \$9,650 and expenses of \$9,200, with a surplus of \$450. On a motion by Jim and a second by David, the report was accepted unanimously.

Kendra then reported on the Manton Grant, which the chapter has received for the past 5 years. The total for New England is \$50,000, which pays for Kendra's travel and for an intern to assist her during her busy season. The funds must be expended within the year the grant is received. Orchard managers spoke of their expected expenses: John Blossom expects to need between \$1700 and \$2000 for orchard supplies. A discussion of tree installers followed. Woods inquired whether there was money in the budget for his electric fence repairs, and Bill said there is. On a motion by David seconded by Bill, the Manton grant for 2015-2016 was voted to be used for replacing the Guilford fence.

David asked how wild tree reporting is being handled, and Kendra described how she verifies the origin of trees before entering them in her database. David suggested we should have a Wild Tree Committee. Star explained how we can use Google Satellite to document the sites for wild trees.

Star then asked Bill to lead the discussion on the Strategic Plan for seed orchards and reforestation. Bill reported that he has sent a draft plan to David Bingham and Jim Gage. He hopes to distribute it to the entire board over the summer, so that we can vote on it at the fall meeting. Anyone interested in participating in the Draft Process should reach out to Bill.

Seed orchard sites were then discussed – two that are moving forward are Rock Cobble Farm, which will soon need to have a maintenance agreement drafted, and the Norcross Foundation, which has two appropriate sites. John B. has agreed to be interim chair for seed orchards, but a permanent chair is needed.

Discussion turned to events at which CTACF might have representation for the purpose of attracting new members. The CT Land Conservation Council holds their annual meeting on the third Saturday in March. Kendra mentioned that the Maine chapter has had good success with a booth at the Maine Flower Show. Bill said that he would be available to attend the CLCC meeting and give a presentation. Other options include Agriculture Day at the State Capitol and Plant Science Day at CAES, August 5, 2015.

After some discussion of orchard issues, Star asked for a motion to adjourn and, with a motion by John A. and second by Garrett, the motion to adjourn was approved at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Harris
Recording Secretary